

LACERTA IGUANA.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Corpus tetrapodum, caudatum, nudum.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 359.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

LACERTA cauda tereti longa, dorso ferrato,
crista gulæ denticulata.

LACERTA cauda tereti longa, futura dorsali
dentata, crista gulæ denticulata.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 366.

LACERTA LEGUAN.

Bont. Fav. 56.

YUVANA.

Clus. Exot. 116.

LACERTUS SENEMBI & IGUANA.

Raj. Quadr. 265.

LEGUANA.

Seb. Mus. 1. t. 95, 96, 97, &c.

In genere Lacertæ plurima sunt exempla formæ miræ et peculiaris; qua sane præ cæteris eminere videtur species quam repræsentat tabula. Americæ est incola; in variis etiam Indiæ Occidentalis insulis frequentissime occurrit; Indiam quoque Orientalem inhabitat. In magnam sæpe crescit molem; nec raro invenitur pedes tres, quatuor, vel etiam quinque longa. Color ejus generalis est viridis, in diversis speciminibus magis minusve vividus, et in aliquibus corporis partibus fusco adumbratus; interdum etiam color fuscus dominatur. Dorsum illi valde ferratum, cum sacco qui in gula est, quemque pro arbitrio potest inflare donec summo opere extendatur, efficit ut animal mite et innocens dirum prorsus et terribile videatur. Loca saxosa et sylvosa incolit hæc lacerta, insecta et vegetabilia devorans. Caro ejus pro esca salubri et nutritia habetur, licet stomachis nonnullis male conveniat. Capitur communiter laqueo circa colum jacto, cujus ope a situ suo detrahitur; non enim cum primum aspicitur, in fugam se recipit, sed intentis oculis conspectores intuetur, saccum simul, quem sub gula habet, miro modo ad summum inflans. Non raro hæc animalia sale condita in doliis asservant insulæ Jamicæ aliarumque insularum Occidentalium incolæ. Hæc lacertæ species a variis auctoribus descripta est, a quibusdam etiam depicta; nullibi tamen pulchrius quam in Seba thesauro rerum naturalium, qui omnes ejus characteres optime expressit.



Iguana iguana. Two specimens, the male and female, from the same locality.

THE GUANA.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Body four-footed, tailed, naked.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

LIZARD with long round tail, ferrated back,
and denticulated gular crest.

The IGUANA or GUANA.

The GREAT AMERICAN GUANA.

The Lizard tribe affords numerous examples of strange and peculiar form; and scarce any species is more eminent in this respect than the Guana. This animal is a native of America, and is found in many parts of the West-Indian islands in great plenty. It is also found in the East Indies. It grows to a very considerable size, and is often seen of the length of three, four, or even five feet. Its most general color is green, but with much variation in the tinge of different individuals; and it is shaded with brown in some parts of the body; and sometimes the brown is the predominating color. The back of the Guana is very strongly ferrated; and this, together with

with the gular pouch, which it has the power of extending or inflating to a great degree, gives a formidable appearance to an animal otherwise harmless. It inhabits rocky and woody places, and feeds on insects and vegetables. It is reckoned an extremely nourishing and delicate food, but is observed to disagree with some constitutions. The common manner of catching it is by casting a noose over its head, and thus drawing it from its situation; for it seldom makes an effort to escape, but stands looking intently at its discoverer, inflating its throat at the same time in an extraordinary manner. Guanas are sometimes salted and barrelled up for use in Jamaica and other West-Indian islands in considerable quantities. This species of *Lacerta* has been described and figured by several authors; but the most expressive figures are those given by Seba in his *Thesaurus rerum naturalium*.